

Decision Record

Commercial Ski Guiding in the White Mountains National Recreation Area. Special Recreation Use Permit 2930 for Latitude Six Six LLC., FF096914

Decision: It is my decision to authorize Latitude Six Six LLC. to conduct commercially guided ski trips in the White Mountains National Recreation Area. In addition, the rental of the public use cabins and “leave no trace” tent camping is authorized in accordance with the attached Special Recreation Use Permit stipulations and standard operating procedures.

Public Involvement: The EA was posted on the NEPA register. No comments were received.

Rationale:

- 1) Resource Management Plan/Record of Decision for the WMNRA, February 1986.
 - Goal 3: Provide for multiple-use where compatible with primitive and semi-primitive recreation.
 - Objective 2: Where compatible with recreation goals, permit multiple-use of resources on land classified as semi-primitive.
 - **Management Direction: Special Recreation Use Permits are required for commercial uses such as commercial outfitting and guiding** and commercial river trips, etc.
 - 2) A permitted commercial guide operator provides a recreation opportunity to groups that have been previously underutilized in the recreation area. Groups that do not possess the equipment or technical skills to successfully complete a multi-day winter ski trip in the White Mountains National Recreation. The applicant’s target group is primarily graduating college students from east coast schools.
 - 3) By issuing guides a Special Recreation Use permit for the commercial use of the public cabins and winter trails network, a greater level of scrutiny and oversight can be achieved with the “standard operating procedures” and the “stipulations” attached to the permit. As a result overall public safety will be enhanced, while user conflicts and resource impacts will be reduced.
- The environmental effects of this action were considered in DOI- BLM-AK-F020-2015-0003-EA and were found to have no significant impacts, thus an environmental impact statement is not required. The evaluations and findings done to comply with Section 810 of ANILCA found no significant subsistence restrictions. The evaluations and finding done to comply with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act found no anticipated impacts to cultural resources and recommended the activity proceed. The evaluation and finding to comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Act found that the proposed action will not affect essential fish habitat.
 - The proposed action is in compliance with the Resource Management Plan/Record of Decision for the WMNRA, February 1986, Section 302 of the Federal Land Management Act, and the regulations found in 43 CFR 2930.

Appeal Provisions: This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Appeals, Office of Hearing and Appeals, in accordance with the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4 and DOI Form 1842-1. The notice of appeals must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management Eastern Interior Field Office, 1150

University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709, within 30 days from the receipt of this decision. Appeals from administrative decisions issued by BLM-Alaska must be filed in writing, in the office of the deciding official, either by mail or hand delivery. Notices of appeal by electronic means, such as e-mail will not be accepted as timely filed.

/S/ Lenore Heppler
Manager, Eastern Interior Field Office

2/10/15
Date

Contact Person: For additional concerning this decision, contact Tim DuPont at the Eastern Interior Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709, or by telephone at (907) 474-2200.